

uncommon migrant (Jennings 1981), in Oman a scarce passage migrant (Gallagher & Woodcock 1980), and there are only a few records from North Yemen (Cornwallis & Porter 1982, Phillips 1982). This might be explained by a direct overland flight across the Arabian Peninsula where only a few individuals may fall out. With our present knowledge of the migratory patterns of this species it is impossible to know if the recent records from Egypt and the Sudan are of vagrants or if a second route exists.

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## A Sydney specimen of *Neodrepanis hypoxantha* (Philepittidae)

by N. W. Longmore

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The collections of the Australian Museum, Sydney have a number of Madagascan bird skins obtained during the latter part of the 19th Century, representing some 90 species. Through the alertness of A. D. Forbes-Watson, one specimen of a false sunbird, labelled *Neodrepanis coruscans* has been correctly re-identified as *N. hypoxantha*. This represents only the thirteenth known specimen of this apparently rare and little known species (Benson 1976).

Data on the Sydney specimen (AM 0.21592) show that the skin was received into the museum collections late last century, but unfortunately it remained unregistered until 1913, so that information cannot be traced regarding its date of acquisition, collector etc. On the original label is clearly written "*Neodrepanis coruscans* (sp.), Antananariva". The locality possibly refers to Antananariva (=Tananarive), the capital of Madagascar, indicating that this locality was possibly the purchase or shipping place.

The specimen has an emarginated 10th primary measuring 7 mm, which exhibits a strong attenuation. This is a character typical of an adult male and was used by Salomonsen (1933) to separate *hypoxantha* from *coruscans*. The specimen lacks the orbital wattle of the breeding male described by Benson (1971). These characters, together with its coloration, suggest that it is an immature male moulting into breeding plumage.

*Description.* Crown and nape olive-yellow, a few feathers thinly edged with a blue gloss. Upperback mottled olive and iridescent dark blue; lowerback iridescent dark blue. Rump yellow. Upper-tail coverts yellow-grey with some iridescent blue. Tail black, each feather edged and tipped iridescent dark blue. Sides of face mottled, grading from yellow-olive on the crown to bright yellow on the throat which is narrowly tipped black. Underparts bright yellow. Flanks, bright yellow with a black band extending from the lower back to thighs. Upper-wings: primaries glossy black; secondaries glossy black, outer edge and tips iridescent blue; upperwing coverts iridescent blue, some with yellow-green tips. Under-wings: primaries and secondaries dark brown broadly edged fawn; underwing coverts and alula bright yellow, coverts immediately behind the alula being mottled grey-brown. Bill and feet pale grey-brown in the dried condition.

*Measurements* (mm): wing 48; tail 21; tarsus 14.5. The tip of the culmen is broken, retaining only 17.4 mm from the base of the skull. Overall the specimen is slightly damaged.

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## Subspeciation in the Karamoja Apalis *Apalis karamojae*

by S. N. Stuart and N. J. Collar

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The Karamoja Apalis *Apalis karamojae*, which we consider a threatened species, occurs as 2 discrete populations in northeastern Uganda and north-central Tanzania (Collar & Stuart 1985). Localities from which the species is known are mapped in Fig. 1.

Hall & Moreau (1962) noted that the *A. karamojae* population in Tanzania, south of Lake Victoria, appears to be darker than that in Uganda. In the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH) and the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) we have examined 7 of the 11 museum specimens of *A. karamojae* we believe to be in existence, 3 from Uganda and 4 from Tanzania, and we conclude that the Tanzanian birds represent a distinct subspecies:

*Apalis karamojae stronachi* subsp. nov.

*Type.* Male collected on 19 February 1962 by I. H. Dillingham and